

REMARKS

In the Office Action of April 11, 2007, the Examiner has divided the claims into three (3) groups: Group I, claims 1-8 and 11, drawn to a multi-step method of preparing isoflavan or isoflavene derivatives; Group II, claim 9, drawn to 2-aryl,3-arylpropenoates which are a product of one of the non-final steps of the above multistep process; and Group III, claim 10, drawn to 2-aryl, 3-aryl-propenol and the corresponding propanol which are products of another of the non-final steps of the above-multi-step process.

Applicants traverse this requirement. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are earnestly requested.

The Examiner states that the inventions listed as Groups I-III are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. The Examiner also states that Groups I-III lack the same or corresponding special technical features under PCT Rule 13.2 because some of the claimed material is not novel, in particular, in view of compounds (26) to (30) of Versteeg et al. which allegedly meet the propanol compounds of claim 10.

However, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the fact that the present application is a 371 national stage application of PCT/KR2004/002685. According to the Written Opinion and the Preliminary Report on Patentability regarding PCT/KR2004/002685, the present application meets the unity of invention requirement. Copies of the Written Opinion and the Preliminary Report are enclosed herewith.

In addition, the compounds according to claims 9-10 of Groups II-III are intermediate compounds involved in the inventive method according to Group I claims. Therefore, the compounds of claims 9-10 are necessary components in Group I claims. Accordingly, the inventions listed as Groups I-III are linked by the special technical feature to form a single

inventive concept. Further, Applicants submit that there is not an undue burden placed upon the Examiner to search and consider all of the claims which are closely related. Therefore, all of the inventions listed as Groups I-III should be joined and examined together as a single invention.

However, in order to be responsive to the outstanding Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group I, claims 1-8 and 11, drawn to a multi-step method of preparing isoflavan or isoflavene derivatives, for prosecution on the merits, with traverse. Applicants specifically preserve the right to prosecute the non-elected claims.

Accordingly, early examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 502486 for any fees due to secure entry of this amendment to the extent necessary.

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Respectfully submitted,

/Joseph Hyosuk Kim/
Joseph Hyosuk Kim, Ph. D.
Registration No. 41,425

JHK Law
P.O. Box 1078
La Canada, CA 91012-1078
Telephone: 818-249-8177
Facsimile: 818-249-8277